

PATENT

Application No.: 09/997,494

Customer No.: 24943

Amendments to the claims:

Please amend claims 9, 13, 15 and 19 as follows:

1. (previously presented) A double locking mortise joint comprising:

(a) a first member having:

i) a first mortise being formed generally perpendicularly with respect to an axis of said first member, said first mortise having:

1) a gusset top extending generally perpendicularly outward with respect to said axis of said first member;

2) a head bottom opposite to and generally parallel to said gusset top, said head bottom is shorter in length than said gusset top;

3) a first mortise end being generally parallel to said axis of said first member and connecting said gusset top and said head bottom;

ii) a first contact surface and a second contact surface next to said first mortise end;

(b) a second member having:

i) a second mortise having two opposing sides being generally parallel to each other, and a second mortise end connecting said two opposing sides;

ii) a top surface and a bottom surface next to said second mortise end;

whereby said first member and said second member are rigidly and snugly yet removably joined together at the first mortise and the second mortise by fitting said gusset top and said head bottom between said two opposing sides of said second mortise, such that said head bottom extends onto said top surface, said gusset top extends onto said bottom surface, and said two opposing sides extend onto said first contact surface and said second contact surface, and

wherein said first mortise further comprises a first mortise corner and a second mortise corner, said first mortise corner being located between said first mortise end and said head bottom, said second mortise corner being located between said first mortise end and said gusset top, and at least one of said two mortise corners is rounded.

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2. (previously canceled)
3. (previously canceled)
4. (previously canceled)
5. (previously presented) The double locking mortise joint of claim 1, wherein both of said two mortise corners are rounded.
6. (original) The double locking mortise joint of claim 1, wherein said first member is a table leg, and said second member is a corner of a tabletop.
7. (original) The double locking mortise joint of claim 6, wherein said first member further comprises an inner side and an outer side, said inner side and said outer side being substantially parallel to each other.
8. (original) The double locking mortise joint of claim 7, wherein said inner side and said outer side have a same curvature.
9. (currently amended) A double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections the joint comprising:
  - (a) ~~one or more~~ a table legs, ~~each of said one or more table legs~~ having:
    - i) a first mortise being formed generally perpendicularly with respect to an axis of said table leg, said first mortise having:
      - 1) a gusset top extending generally perpendicularly outward with respect to said axis of said table leg;
      - 2) a head bottom opposite to and generally parallel to said gusset top and said head bottom is shorter in length than said gusset top;
      - 3) a first mortise end being generally parallel to said axis of said table leg and connecting said gusset top and said head bottom;
    - ii) a first contact surface and a second contact surface next to said first mortise

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end;

(b) ~~one or more~~ a tabletop edges, ~~each of said one of more tabletop edges~~ having:

- i) a second mortise having two opposing sides being generally parallel to each other, and a second mortise end connecting said two opposing sides;
- ii) a top surface and a bottom surface next to said second mortise end;

wherein said table leg and said tabletop edge are rigidly and snugly yet removably joined together at the first mortise and the second mortise by fitting said gusset top and said head bottom between said two opposing sides of said second mortise, such that said head bottom extends onto said top surface, said gusset top extends onto said bottom surface, and said two opposing sides extend onto said first contact surface and said second contact surface, and

wherein ~~one~~ three or more of said joints support a tabletop without any further supporting structural members or connections existing below a horizontal plane which lies at the joining of the first mortise and second mortise, each table leg of each joint being independently and separately removable from every other table leg.

10. (previously presented) The double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections according to claim 9, wherein said first mortise further comprises a first mortise corner and a second mortise corner, said first mortise corner being located between said first mortise end and said head bottom, said second mortise corner being located between said first mortise end and said gusset top, and at least one of said two mortise corners is rounded.

11. (previously presented) The double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections according to claim 10, wherein both of said two mortise corners are rounded.

12. (previously presented) The double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections according to claim 9, wherein the table leg has a height dimension longer than both a width and depth dimension of the table leg combined.

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13. (currently amended) The double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections according to claim 9, wherein ~~each of said one or more~~ the table leg[[s]] further comprises an inner side and an outer side, said inner side and said outer side being substantially parallel to each other.
14. (previously presented) The double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections according to claim 13, wherein said inner side and said outer side have a same curvature.
15. (currently amended) A double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections the joint comprising:
- (a) ~~one or more~~ a table legs, ~~each of said one or more table legs~~ having:
    - i) a first mortise being formed generally perpendicularly with respect to an axis of said table leg, said first mortise having:
      - 1) a gusset top extending generally perpendicularly outward with respect to said axis of said table leg;
      - 2) a head bottom opposite to and generally parallel to said gusset top, said head bottom is shorter in length than said gusset top;
      - 3) a first mortise end being generally parallel to said axis of said table leg and connecting said gusset top and said head bottom;
    - ii) a first contact surface and a second contact surface next to said first mortise end;
  - (b) ~~one or more~~ a tabletop edges, ~~each of said one or more tabletop edges~~ having:
    - i) a second mortise having two opposing sides being generally parallel to each other, and a second mortise end connecting said two opposing sides;
    - ii) a top surface and a bottom surface next to said second mortise end;
- wherein said table leg and said tabletop edge are rigidly and snugly yet removably joined together at the first mortise and the second mortise by fitting said gusset top and said head bottom between said two opposing sides of said second mortise, such that said head bottom extends onto said top surface, said gusset top extends onto said bottom surface, and said two opposing sides extend onto said first contact surface and said second contact surface, and

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wherein a tabletop is supported and stabilized only by ~~the one~~ three or more joints  
~~and table legs~~ without any additional support pieces.

16. (previously presented) The double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections according to claim 15, wherein said first mortise further comprises a first mortise corner and a second mortise corner, said first mortise corner being located between said first mortise end and said head bottom, said second mortise corner being located between said first mortise end and said gusset top, and at least one of said two mortise corners is rounded.
17. (previously presented) The double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections according to claim 16, wherein both of said two mortise corners are rounded.
18. (previously presented) The double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections according to claim 15, wherein the table leg has a height dimension longer than both a width and depth dimension of the table leg combined.
19. (currently amended) The double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections according to claim 15, wherein each of ~~said one or more~~ the table legs further comprises an inner side and an outer side, said inner side and said outer side being substantially parallel to each other.
20. (previously presented) The double locking mortise joint for table leg to tabletop connections according to claim 19, wherein said inner side and said outer side have a same curvature.